

Taking on Halloween

Nov 1, 2013

RSV Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to the whole creation.

The commandment to preach from Jesus is not a suggestion. Faith comes from hearing (Rm10:17) but only if a Christian speaks the word so another may hear it (Rm10:14).

With Halloween upon us, what better way to occupy and take a stand (1Cor16:13) than to come against Halloween and engage in trench warfare. The newspapers state around 100,000 costume wearing party goers descends along Austin's bar laden 6th street (however this year it seems over half didn't wear costumes). Jesus and the Apostles went where the masses of the people were and spoke from the beach to the temple. There's no beach or temple on 6th street unless you count getting hammered and confessing your sins to a stranger. What was apparent was the lack of any church representation seeking the same desire as I. What goes on within the 4 walls of the church stays within the 4 walls of the church.

The thought that came to me was to go down and preach the gospel. The idea was to pass out handouts that I made & printed out.

One has to be an excellent impromptu speaker to speak off the cuff without fumbling the message or leaving something out. Since I am continuously improving on that area, I prefer have a preselected methodical approach to what I wanted to say. Being prepared eases the nervousness and increase the boldness.

The approach that came to me was:

- 1) State the problem
- 2) State the penalty
- 3) State the hope for a solution
- 4) State the solution

In stating the problem you first have to have someone to state the problem to. In my toastmaster club that I'm in you always throw a hook out in your opening part of your speech and then transition into the body of the speech - drawing them in.

Casting the Hook

The hook I was going with is the one that John the Baptist and Jesus' used by saying "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt3:1-2, 4:17). If anyone becomes curious and questions this verse then I can roll into the next stage of presenting the gospel.



Jesus and the Apostles quoted the book but not the chapter and verse so that was the approach I was going to go with but also memorizing the book/chapter/verse if they asked. Jesus and the Apostle didn't always state the entire verse (modern chapter/verse break out was not used back then) but the phrase that captured their intent.

Here's the route that I believed satisfied Mark16:15 (all the while knowing that on the fly changes may be necessary based on the situation).

1) State the problem

Ma'am/Sir, the bible states in Romans that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rm3:23).



In 1st John it's stated that Sin is the transgression of the law (1Jn3:4).

What happens if you are stopped by the police while you are speeding? You receive a judgment in the form of a traffic ticket.

What happens if you violate God's law?

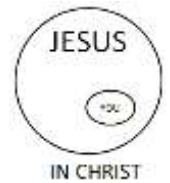
2) State the penalty

Paul states in Romans that the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Rm6:23).

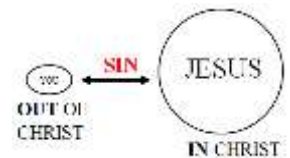
Paul says that we have the death penalty against us for committing a single sin. We all have sinned either in thought, word or deed at some point in our lives (see 1Jn1:8-9 for backup).

3) State the hope for a solution

There is hope because God has a free gift for us of eternal life if we are IN Christ Jesus (Rm6:23). To receive that free gift you MUST be IN Christ Jesus.



To be IN Christ you must not be OUT of Christ. The prophet Isaiah states that our iniquities or sins have separated us from God (Is59:2). Not only have we be separated from God we have the death penalty from God.



There is good news, because Paul states in Romans that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for our sins (Rom5:8) and in the book of Revelations it's stated that Jesus freed us from our sins by His blood (Rev1:5).

If we desire for eternal life we must be IN Jesus which means we must have our sins removed which means we must contact the blood. The blood washes away our sins. To touch something you must first move to the object that you wish to touch. If I want to touch that building, I'm going to have to walk over there and put my hand on the wall.

4) State the solution

The book of James says if you draw near to God then he will draw near to you (Jm4:8). How does this drawing near to God happen?



Obviously you can't reject or ignore what Jesus says. One is blessed by God if they hear the word of God and keep it (Lk11:28).

Next you must believe the good news that Jesus died, was buried and rose on the third day (1Cor15:3-4, Mk16:16)

Once you believe then you should have the confidence to proclaim that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death (Rm10:9).

The final steps to removing your sins and crossing the threshold and being IN Jesus is the same today as it was on the day of Pentecost when the people came to the Apostles and asked them what they should do (Acts2:37).

The Apostle Peter stated in Acts 2:38 that they must repent and be baptized IN the name of Jesus Christ FOR the forgiveness of your sins.

When you come up from being immersed in water you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) just as Jesus did when John the Baptist baptized Jesus (Mt3:16).

RSV Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "**Repent, and be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**; and you **shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**."



When you receive the Holy Spirit then your sins have been washed away and you have been added into the body of Christ thru baptism (Gal3:27, Acts2:41,47).

Death and life are presented before you. Death if you do nothing or life if you hear, believe, confess, repent and are baptized into Jesus Christ.

I can't force you to decide for you and your house but for me and my house, I choose life and Jesus (Josh24:15).

Memorization Homework before hitting the streets - Study to show yourself approved (2 Tim 2:15)

RSV Romans 3:23 since **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

RSV 1 John 3:4 Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; **sin is lawlessness**.

RSV Romans 6:23 For **the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus** our Lord.

RSV Isaiah 59:2 but **your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he does not hear.

RSV Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that **while we were yet sinners Christ died for us**.

RSV 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

RSV Revelation 1:5 and from **Jesus Christ** the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and **has freed us from our sins by his blood**

RSV James 4:8 **Draw near to God and he will draw near to you**. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.

RSV Luke 11:28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who **hear the word of God and keep it!**"

RSV Mark 16:16 **He who believes and is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

RSV Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**.

RSV Romans 10:9 because, if you **confess with your lips** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

After every patrol I was in while in the Marine Corps, we had a debriefing to discuss how the patrol went, lessons learned and things to improve on for next time.

Lesson learned is to follow the advice Jesus laid out on preaching in Lk10:1-2 of going in a team of 2. A man sharpens the countenance of another as Proverb 27:17 states and having another to share your burden (Gal 6:2) then the time will become more productive. This is because if one is weak in one area and is strong in another and opposite for the other then team as a whole will be strong. Similar to a trainer motivating someone to give more effort, do another lift, use more weights.... In a two man team, each is the motivators for the other.

One possible team break up is one with knowledge and the other with an overabundance of drive and no fear of the population. When those qualities are in a person you have a prophet like Ezekiel who God made him with a forehead of adamant (Ez3:9-10) and with knowledge (Ez3:1-4).

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

RSV Romans 10:13-17

13 For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

14 But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And **how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?**

15 And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

17 So **faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.**

RSV 1 Corinthians 16:13 Be watchful, **stand firm in your faith**, be courageous, be strong.

RSV Matthew 3:1-2

1 **IN THOSE** days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

2 "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

RSV Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

RSV Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brethren, what shall we do?**"

RSV Joshua 24:15 And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but **as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**"

RSV 2 Timothy 2:15 **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved**, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

RSV Luke 10:1-2

1 **AFTER THIS** **the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two**, into every town and place where he himself was about to come.

2 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

RSV Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and **one man sharpens another.**

RSV Galatians 6:2 **Bear one another's burdens,** and so fulfil the law of Christ.

RSV Ezekiel 3:1-4

1 AND HE said to me, "Son of man, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, **speak to the house of Israel.**"

2 So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

3 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it; and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

4 And he said to me, "**Son of man, go, get you to the house of Israel, and speak with my words to them.**"

RSV Ezekiel 3:9-10

9 **Like adamant harder than flint have I made your forehead;** fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house."

10 Moreover he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears.

Some of the people I saw on the street. Their pictures were posted on the online section of the newspaper the next day. I had a good desire to fish but no bites.

<http://www.austin360.com/gallery/entertainment/night-life/-list-halloween-sixth-street/gCFbx/#4061994>



Next is the handout that I gave out.

THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING

Don't
be in the way



Route to Salvation

Hear

LK 11:28 ... Blessed rather are those who **hear** the words of God and **keep it**.

Listen

MK 16:16 He who **Believes** and is **Baptized** will be saved.

Believe

RM 10:9 ...If you **Confess** with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

Confess

ACTS 2:38 ... **Repent** and be **Baptized** every one of you **IN** the name of Jesus Christ **FOR** the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Repent

Baptize

JN 15:6 If a man **does not Abide**, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

Abide

THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING

Don't
be in the way



Route to Salvation

Hear

LK 11:28 ... Blessed rather are those who **hear** the words of God and **keep it**.

Listen

MK 16:16 He who **Believes** and is **Baptized** will be saved.

Believe

RM 10:9 ...If you **Confess** with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

Confess

ACTS 2:38 ... **Repent** and be **Baptized** every one of you **IN** the name of Jesus Christ **FOR** the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Repent

Baptize

JN 15:6 If a man **does not Abide**, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

Abide

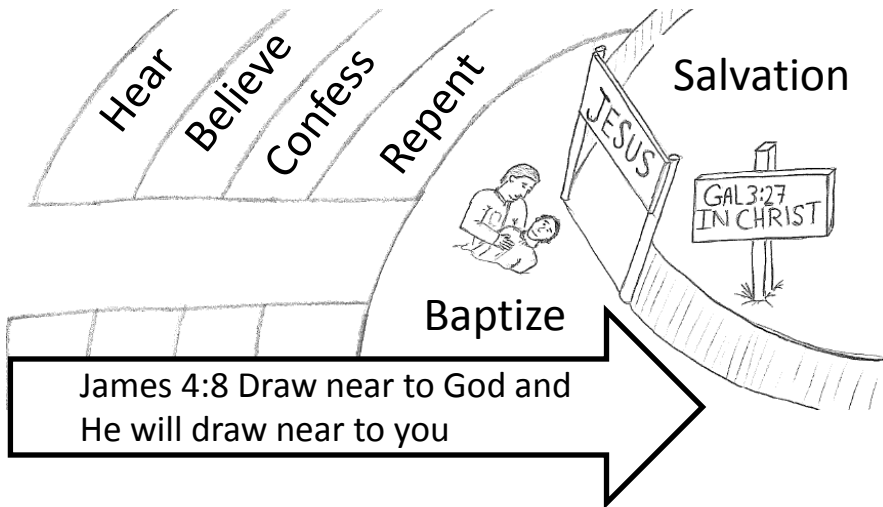
RM 3:23 ... **ALL** have **SINNED** and fallen short of the glory of God.

1JN 3:4 Everyone who commits **SIN** is guilty of lawlessness...

RM 6:23 For the wages of **SIN** is **DEATH**, but the free gift of God is **ETERNAL LIFE IN** Christ Jesus our Lord

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 **“The Good News”**

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the scriptures,
4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the scriptures,



1PT 3:21 Baptism,..., now saves you

ACTS 8:36 ...they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?”

COL 2:12 and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith...

JN 10:7 ... I am the Door of the sheep

JN 14:6 ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

GAL 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ

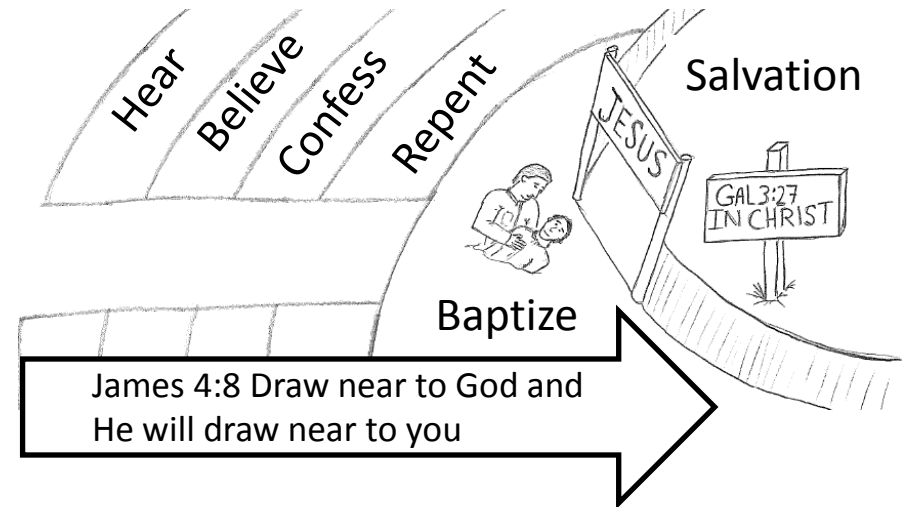
RM 3:23 ... **ALL** have **SINNED** and fallen short of the glory of God.

1JN 3:4 Everyone who commits **SIN** is guilty of lawlessness...

RM 6:23 For the wages of **SIN** is **DEATH**, but the free gift of God is **ETERNAL LIFE IN** Christ Jesus our Lord

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 **“The Good News”**

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the scriptures,
4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the scriptures,



1PT 3:21 Baptism,..., now saves you

ACTS 8:36 ...they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?”

COL 2:12 and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith...

JN 10:7 ... I am the Door of the sheep

JN 14:6 ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

GAL 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ